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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EB-11 COME-00

DOTE-00 DRC-01 /085 W
---------- 074367
R 270225Z SEP 73
FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1794
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, AS (HALTON, CHARLES C.)
SUBJECT: CANADIAN NAMED TO HEAD NEW DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION.

1. CHARLES C. HALTON HAS BEEN NAMED HEAD OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WHICH WILL MERGE THE UP TO NOW SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, IN ANNOUNCING APPOINTMENT, SAID HALTON HAD DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN BRITAIN, PUBLIC SERVICE IN CANADA AND THAT IT WAS AN ADVANTAGE TO AUSTRALIA TO HAVE A MAN WHO WAS AWARE OF A SIMILAR FEDERAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN CANADA AND WAS ALSO ACQUAINTED WITH THE SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES. DCA SPOKESMEN SAY HALTON IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP HIS NEW POSITION ON NOVEMBER 5 THOUGH INITIALLY WILL BE SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FINAL MERGER TAKES PLACE. SIR DONALD ANDERSON, PREVIOUS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIAL AVIATION, WILL BECOME FULL TIME CHAIRMAN OF QANTAS AS OF OCT 1.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HALTON,
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HIS WORK, HIS PREVIOUS WORK RECORD IN CANADA AND LONDON

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AND ANY DETAILS WHICH WILL GIVE INSIGHT AS TO WHAT MAY BE
EXPECTED OF HIM IN HIS NEW POSITION. IS HALTON STILL
BRITISH, OR HAS HE TAKEN UP CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP?

3. COMMENT: DCA OFFICIALS CLAIM COMPLETE SURPRISE
AT ANNOUNCEMENT, ALTHOUGH THEY FELT DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT KNEW OF IT IN ADVANCE SINCE THEY HEARD THAT
HALTON HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM
AND TRANSPORT MINISTER JONES DURING THEIR RECENT TRIPS
TO NORTH AMERICA. MERGER PLANS APPEAR TO BE GOING
FORWARD DESPITE EARLIER REPORTS OF OPPOSITION REPORTED
IN PRESS. FINAL REPORT OF MERGER TEAM FORWARDED TO
MINISTER JONES IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS
ARE AS STRONGAS ORIGINALLY FEARED BY DCA OFFICERS.
REPORT NOT YET MADE PUBLIC OR AVAILABLE TO ANY BUT
AFFECTED OFFICIALS.
FLUKER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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